

Application Serial No. 09/937,591
Reply to Office Action of June 14, 2005

PATENT
Docket: CU-2651

Amendments to the Claims

The listing of claims presented below replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims:

1-19. (cancelled)

20. (currently amended) A method for fitting a device on a vehicle wheel, resting against a road surface, to increase the friction between the wheel and the road surface during winter driving conditions, comprising the steps of:

providing a device comprising an endless annular belt made substantially from textile material and intended to encircle the outer circumference of the wheel; a flexible inner side portion, ~~having an elastic member, which is tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when then the device is fitted on the wheel;~~ and a flexible and non-elastically deformable outer side portion which is disposed against the outer side surface of the wheel when the device is fitted on the wheel, ~~and prevents entire device from passing over to the inner side surface of the wheel, the outer side portion being shaped and configured so that the wheel cannot pass through said outer side portion during winter driving conditions so that the device is kept stably in place on the wheel;~~ wherein only the flexible inner side portion of the has an elastic member, the flexible inner side portion being tightened against the inner side surface of the wheel by the elastic member when the device is fitted on the wheel;

fitting the inner side portion of the device over the outer circumference of the wheel to the inner side surface of the wheel along as much as possible of that part of the outer circumference which does not rest against the road surface; and

rotating the wheel by means of the vehicle, whereby the remaining part of the inner side portion of the device moves over the outer circumference of the wheel to fit on the inner side surface of the wheel and pulls the belt in place along the outer circumference of the wheel.

21-25. (cancelled)

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26. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the outer side portion of the device is designed to cover substantially the outer side surface of the wheel.
27. (new) The method according to Claim 26, wherein the outer side portion of the device is made of a netting material.
28. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the outer side portion of the device has at least one opening, the largest circumference of said opening being less than 2.2 times the largest diameter of the wheel.
29. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the outer side portion of the device is provided with radially extending straps.
30. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said elastic member comprises a rubber-elastic material which is covered by a spun, woven or knitted substantially inelastic thread material, said thread material limiting the extensibility of said elastic member.
31. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein said textile material is a woven polyamide.
32. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the belt comprises two layers of textile material, one side of each layer being coated with a suitable plastic, the two layers being arranged so that the plastic coatings contact one another.
33. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the belt is of a multilayer construction, the outer surface comprising polyester multifilament yarn oriented crosswise to the circumferential direction of the belt.
34. (new) The method according to Claim 33, wherein the polyester multifilament yarn has a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
35. (new) The method according to Claim 32, wherein the inner layer of the multilayer construction is a different color than that of the outer layer.
36. (new) The method according to Claim 35, wherein the layers are made of a polyester or polyamide multifilament material.

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37. (new) The method according to Claim 35, wherein the outer and inner layers are interconnected by a common yarn system in said circumferential direction.
38. (new) The method according to Claim 37, wherein the said common yarn system is made of a polyester multifilament having a fineness of about 1100 dtex.
39. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the inside of the inner side portion of the device is coated by a low friction coating.
40. (new) The method according to Claim 39, wherein said low friction coating is one selected from the group consisting of: silicon polymer, butadiene rubber, neoprene rubber, and PVC.
41. (new) The method according to Claim 27, wherein the netting material is a PVC coated 1100 dtex polyester multifilament material having a netting opening of 2-7mm.
42. (new) The method according to Claim 20, wherein the outer side portion radially extends from an internal circumference of the belt toward the center of the wheel over a length which equals at least 17% of the largest internal diameter of the belt.